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Press Release

Pipeline, with Martin Wesley-Smith

At 8 pm on Sat Aug 1 the contemporary music group Pipeline will present a concert in the North Melbourne Town Hall. It will feature the music of Martin Wesley-Smith, a Sydney composer who is the Australia Council's Don Banks Composer Fellow for 1987 and one of Australia's leading composers of computer music. The programme will include **VENCEREMOS!**, a spectacular audio-visual composition concerned with the 1975 Indonesian invasion of East Timor

Wesley-Smith has the following to say about **VENCEREMOS!**:

On Nov 28 1975 the Fretilin government of what was then Portugese East Timor unilaterally declared independence and proclaimed the establishment of the Democratic Republic of East Timor. Nine days later the celebrations marking the end of four hundred years of colonial rule were viciously cut short by a full-scale invasion by Indonesian troops.

In 1977 I combined with photographer Penny Tweedie to create an audio-visual piece, **Kdadalak (For the Children of Timor)**, that deplored the plight of the East Timorese people (since 1975 up to 200,000 people - possibly more - have died in East Timor at the hands of famine, disease and US-supplied napalm, weapons and aircraft). The resistance still goes on, yet the world does nothing. The Australian Labor Party supported Fretilin, but when it came to power it changed its tune in a cynical betrayal of the supporters of its pre-election Foreign Affairs platform. It was with a sense of outrage that I then combined with photographer Julia Featherstone to create **VENCEREMOS!**, a protest at a deplorable situation that still exists in a country that is closer to Darwin than Melbourne is to Perth.

The Timorese poet Fransisco Borja da Costa was shot by Indonesian troops on Dec 7 1975. Snippets of his poem Kdadalak, in the local language Tetum, open the piece. An optimistic version of East Timor's national song Mount Ramelau ends it. A computer realisation of a Javanese trance dance (used to prepare warriors for battle) precedes a mix of The Star-Spangled Banner, Waltzing Matilda and Advance Australia Fair.

One of the photographs depicts one of the five Australian television journalists who were shot, also by Indonesian troops, a few weeks before the invasion; another depicts current Fretilin leader Xanana. All photographs were treated by a prototype of the not-then-released Fairlight Computer Video Instrument, courtesy of its inventor, Kia Silverbrook.

VENCEREMOS! is dedicated to all those who still suffer from "the wind blowing from the sea":

* **Kdadalak** ("Streams")

Streams flowing together become rivers
Rivers increase, whatever opposes them

So must the children of Timor unite
Unite against the wind blowing from the sea

The sea wind whips the kabala
Whips our eyes bloody, our backs bloody

Makes our tears roll down, our sweat flow down
Sucks the fat of our earth, the fat of our bodies

Streams flowing together become rivers
CHILDREN OF TIMOR - UNITED, RECLAIM OUR LAND!

* from **Revolutionary Poems in the Struggle Against Colonialism**, by Fransisco Borja da Costa. Free English translation by Jill Jolliffe. Reprinted by kind permission of the publisher, Wild and Woolley Pty Ltd, Sydney

You are urged to see and hear this powerful protest at the plight of the East Timorese people. One performance only. Sat Aug 1 at 8 pm. North Melbourne Town Hall. Pipeline.